(ग) क्या चोरी की उक्त घटनाओं की जांच की गई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो जांच के क्या परिणाम निकले हैं;

(ङ) क्या इसमें भारतीय सीमेंट निगम के कोई अधिकारी दोषी पाये गये हैं; और

(च) यदि हां, तो ऐसे अधिकारी कौन-कौन से हैं?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) वर्ष 1996-97, 1997-98 तथा 1998-99 के दौरान, सीमेंट कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के गोदाम से सीमेंट की चोरी की किसी घटना की कोई रिपोर्ट ध्यान में नहीं आई है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Utilisation of NRF resources

2185. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in "The Financial Express" (New Delhi) dated the 15th June, 1998 under the caption "Government makes a feast with NRF resources while deserving PSUs starve" and

(b) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) The news-item referred to by the Hon'ble Member, refers to a recent scrutiny of the functioning of National Renewal Fund by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. This report is being examined in consultation with the departments concerned of the Government.

Investment limit in small Scale Sector

2186. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decreased the investment limit in the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the deails thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the modernisation, expansion of small scale sector will suffer thereafter; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for improvement/ modernisation/expansion of small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister announced at the Laghu Udyog Bharti function held on 29.4.98 that the investment limit for a SSI unit would be reduced from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 1 crore. Care would be taken to see that modernisation/expension of the small scale sector does not suffer.

(d) For facilitating improvement/ modernisation/expansion of the small scale sector, several Government assisted schemes are being implemented. Small Industries Development Bank of India also provides financial assistance liberally for modernisation under their Technology Development and Modernisation Fund Scheme.

Scientists against International Patents Act

2187. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI YERRA NARA-YANASWAMY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received from scientists against the International Patents Act in India to file criminal charges against piracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed in this sregard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no International Patents Act. Patents are granted by Governments under their respective patents laws. Violation of patent rights is challenged under those laws by the affected parties.